

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 9, 2004

The Honorable Dale Bosworth
Chief
USDA Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Bosworth:

We are writing to address the proposal put forth by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on July 7, 2004 regarding All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Off Highway Motor Vehicle (OHV) access to public lands. OHV users, manufacturers, and dealers from our districts who are generally supportive of this measure have expressed specific concerns to us regarding the rule, and may have communicated these concerns to you as well.

The proposal would establish new regulations for designating roads and trails for OHV use in each National Forest in the United States. We applaud and support the efforts of the USFS to manage OHV use in the National Forests through comprehensive, effective regulations, and thereby protecting forestlands and resources while also ensuring appropriate access to roads and trails in the forests for millions of law-abiding ATV and OHV riders.

We are concerned, however, that certain groups are suggesting that the USFS should impose an arbitrary two-year deadline for the designation of trails, which would work to permanently close all areas not officially designated in that time frame.

The trail designation process is historic in scope and a two-year deadline would make it virtually impossible for the USFS to complete a comprehensive inventory of its trails/roads network for possible designation, including user created roads, in each National Forest unit. Where designations are not completed on time, thousands of miles of National Forest trails would be closed to OHV users, denying millions of responsible citizens the right to enjoy the outdoors.

Maintaining public access to OHV trail systems is critically important to help meet the growing demand for this recreational activity. It is also important to the economies of many localities across the U.S. We look forward to working with you as we continue our efforts to provide safe and environmentally responsible recreation options for Americans.

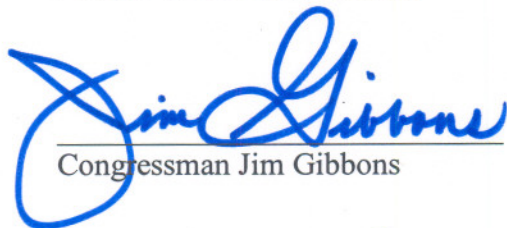
Sincerely,



Congressman Chris Cannon



Congressman Richard Pombo



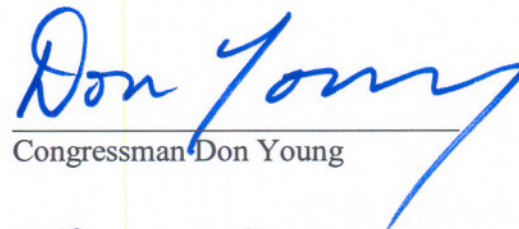
Congressman Jim Gibbons



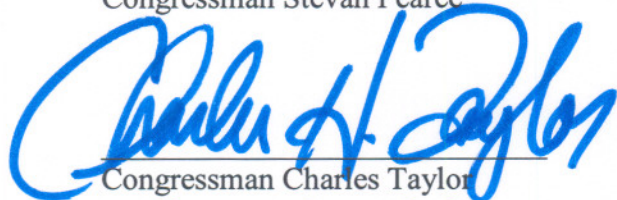
Congressman C.L. "Butch" Otter



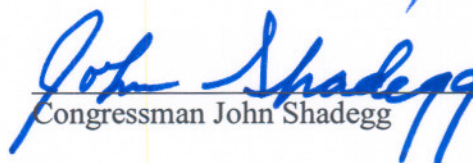
Congressman Stevan Pearce



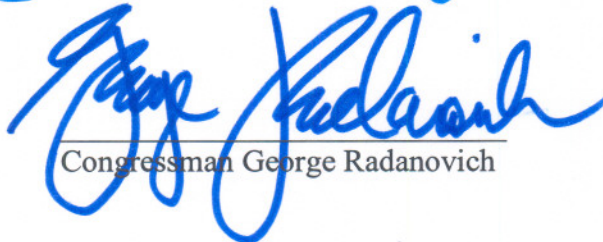
Congressman Don Young



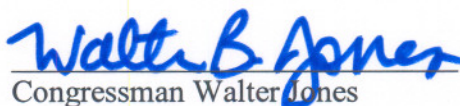
Congressman Charles Taylor



Congressman John Shadegg



Congressman George Radanovich



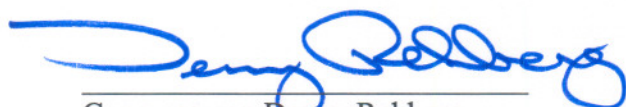
Congressman Walter Jones



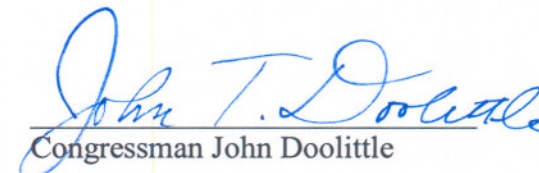
Congressman Tom Tancredo



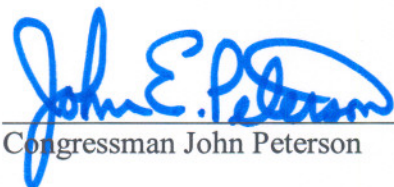
Congressman Scott McInnis



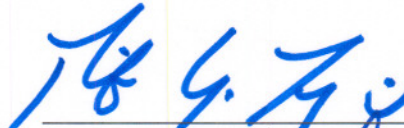
Congressman Denny Rehberg



Congressman John Doolittle



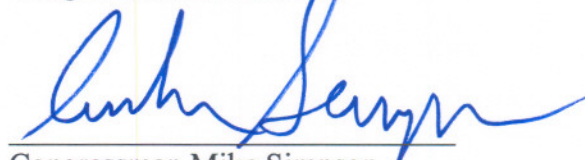
Congressman John Peterson



Congressman Rick Renzi



Congresswoman Barbara Cubin



Congressman Mike Simpson

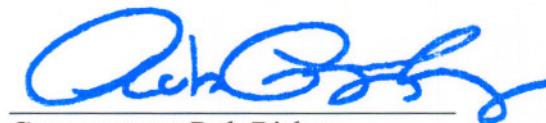


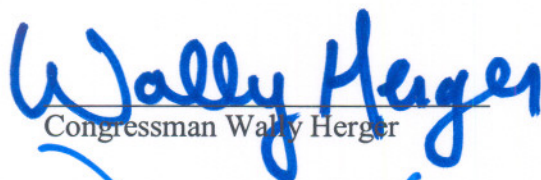
Congressman Jeff Flake

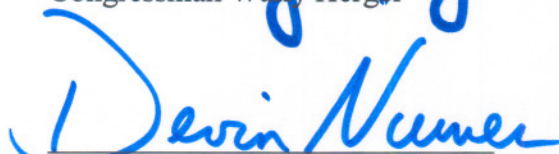


Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave

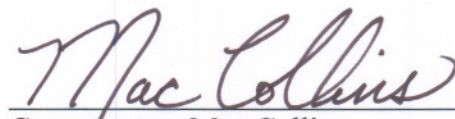

Congressman Ken Calvert

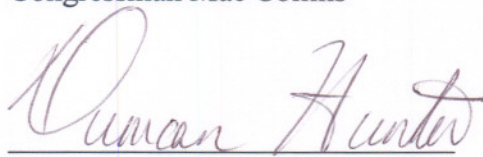

Congressman Rob Bishop


Congressman Wally Herger


Congressman Devin Nunes


Congressman Greg Walden


Congressman Mac Collins


Congressman Duncan Hunter